

## CLAIMS

*SUB  
A1*

1. This is a dot matrix display device wherein multiple lines of scanning electrodes and multiple lines of signal electrodes are arranged interlacing in a matrix form, and in which the display elements at each intersecting point of the matrix are driven by means of a voltage between the above-mentioned scanning electrodes and the above-mentioned signal electrodes,

and is a dot matrix display device wherein rectifying elements are electrically connected in the direction of a prescribed polarity between the above-mentioned scanning electrodes and a reference voltage terminal that applies a prescribed reference potential, and the load on the above-mentioned scanning electrodes is discharged to the above-mentioned reference voltage terminal side through the medium of the above-mentioned rectifying elements.

2. A dot matrix display device recorded in Claim 1 having;  
switches that are connected in series with the above-mentioned rectifying elements between the above-mentioned scanning electrodes and the above-mentioned reference voltage terminal, and

a switch control means that places the above-mentioned switches in the ON state only for a prescribed time in the interval in which a drive voltage is applied to the above-mentioned scanning electrodes.

3. A dot matrix display device recorded in Claim 1 having;  
a scanning electrode drive means that sequentially drives with a prescribed reference drive voltage the above-mentioned plurality of scanning electrodes at a constant horizontal scanning cycle,

a signal electrode drive means that drives the above-mentioned multiple lines of signal electrodes in response to the respective corresponding signals at each cycle of the above-mentioned horizontal scanning,

switches that are connected in series with the above-mentioned rectifying elements between the above-mentioned scanning electrodes and the above-mentioned reference voltage terminal, and

a switch control means that places the above-mentioned switches in the ON state only in a prescribed time during the scanning drive period for each horizontal scanning period.

4. A dot matrix display device recorded in any one of Claims 1 to 3 having a constant current source circuit that is connected in series with the above-mentioned rectifying elements

between the above-mentioned scanning electrodes and the above-mentioned reference voltage terminal.

5. A dot matrix display device recorded in any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the above-mentioned display elements are made up of light emitting diodes, and a portion of the above-mentioned display elements functions as the above-mentioned rectifying elements.

~~A<sub>dd</sub>  
A<sub>2</sub>  
add  
B<sub>1</sub>~~